



MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
43rd session  
Agenda item 16

MEPC 43/INF.21  
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ENGLISH ONLY

## TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

### Technical Co-operation Sub-Programme for the Protection of the Marine Environment

#### Status Report on the Programme of Activities June 1998 - May 1999 for the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre Caribbean (REMPEITC - Carib)

Note by the Secretariat

#### SUMMARY

- Executive summary:** This document provides information on activities under the aegis of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre - Wider Caribbean (REMPEITC-Carib.) during the period June 1998 to May 1999. It complements the information as contained in document MEPC 43/16.
- Action to be taken:** Paragraph 3
- Related documents:** Information on this programme was presented earlier in MEPC 41/INF.19

1 Attached, for the information of the Committee, is a programme of activities June 1998 - May 1999 for the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre - Wider Caribbean (REMPEITC-Carib.).

2 In addition to the attached review for the period June 1998 - May 1999, the Centre has developed the following relevant documents, copies of which can be obtained from REMPEITC - Carib; these are:

- The REMPEITC - Carib report - Review 95 - 99;
- The Work Plan 1999 - 2000; and
- Draft Project Proposal - OPRC Implementation Wider Caribbean

#### Action requested of the Committee

3 The Committee is invited to take note of the information provided and to comment as appropriate.

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## ANNEX

**REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY, INFORMATION AND TRAINING  
CENTRE  
WIDER CARIBBEAN  
(REMPEITC - Carib.)**

**June 1998 - May 1999**

REMPEITC-Carib Executed Activities: (June 1998 - May 1999)

During the reviewed period the Centre continued to focus on the prime issue, as mentioned in the Work Plan for 1996–1999, of encouraging the wider adoption of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC Convention 1990), the Cartagena Convention and assisting countries, Island States and Territories in updating their National and Regional Oil Pollution Contingency Plans and strengthening the increased exercising of plans, national and regional.

Within the available budget, including donor support. The following activities have been undertaken:

### **Missions**

To execute the Cartagena Convention's Oil Protocol and to promote OPRC related matters and the ratification and implementation of International Maritime Conventions, and support for REMPEITC-Carib, conducting missions is inevitable. Island States and Territories that have been visited in the reviewed period expressed tremendous interest in adopting Conventions, requesting assistance and were very keen on improving their contingency plans.

- Cuba:** First visit to Cuba, July '98, to discuss the status of contingency planning and Oil Pollution Preparedness Response and Co-operation related matters. Review of the National Contingency Plan, and promotion for ratification and implementation of International Maritime Conventions.
- USA** – US Coast Guard Headquarters, August '98: Co-ordinate and discuss activities of REMPEITC-Carib and US role and support for the Centre for the June '98 MOU–Partners Meeting.
- Japan:** Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), August 1998: On request of UNEP-CAR/RCU, Jamaica, REMPEITC-Carib participated in the informal Experts Meeting in Tayama – Japan, to inform the NOWPAP representatives on activities of REMPEITC-Carib as a contribution to the initiative of the NW Pacific Region in establishing a regional Centre.
- Bahamas / Fort Lauderdale:** Caribbean Port State Control MOU-Meeting, IMO Flag State Seminar, and Preparation of Level 1 – Bahamas, and Level 2 – Fort Lauderdale, October '98.
- St. Lucia:** OPRC workshop, November '98. Assistance in redrafting the National Plan.
- Montevideo – ARPEL:** Explore co-operation with ARPEL (the regional Association of Oil and Natural Gas Companies in Latin America and the Caribbean), November '98, for closer relationship aiming at supporting the Region's efforts in oil spill planning and response. The meeting resulted in a draft MOC between ARPEL and REMPEITC-Carib.
- IPIECA Oil Spill Working Group:** USA, Fairfax – Virginia, December '98. The Centre provided an overview and assessment of activities past, present and future toward the preparedness of the Caribbean Region. Details of the Centre's Workplan 1999 – 2001 were discussed with an emphasis on areas that required additional donor assistance.
- Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (CPPS):** Guayaquil-Ecuador, December '98. CPPS, organized the international Seminar on the regional progress on the UNEP Global Environment Programme over the last five years. REMPEITC-Carib participated on request and on behalf of IMO and presented an overview of IMO in general and Regional Co-operation & OPRC implementation in particular.
- French Antilles:** Martinique, January '99. First mission to the French Antilles to review the status of contingency planning and to promote close co-operation with REMPEITC-Carib. The French Antilles are in favour of direct support to the Centre.

**Dominica Republic** – IMO Forum: Santo Domingo, February '99. Improve the marine environment in the Wider Caribbean Region by having Government and Industry discuss the implementation of Annex V of MARPOL so that the Region can be declared a “Special Area” and also the adoption and implementation of the OPRC Convention and explore possibilities to achieve a financial sustainability for REMPEITC-Carib in near future.

**Netherlands Antilles:** Curaçao, March '99, Presentation Board of Ministers regarding developments within REMPEITC-Carib and the implementation of international maritime conventions. Promote the review of the National Contingency Plan and conducting exercises.

**IOCARIB – Costa Rica:** San José, April '99. Participation in the Sixth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Committee for the Caribbean and Adjacent Region (IOCARIBE).

**Nicaragua:** Managua, April '99. Starting the first negotiations with the Technical Secretary of ROCRAM-CA, the Central American Commission for Maritime Transport (COCATRAM), on the implementation of the sub-regional Caribbean OPRC Mainland Plan and National Contingency Plans for the Central American States.

**US-CRRT – St. Coix & St. Thomas-USVI:** October '98 & April '99. Attending the regular US Caribbean Regional Response Team Meeting to discuss developments regarding response and co-operation in contingency planning and to promote the participation of and co-operation with sub-regional Island States and Territories.

**El Salvador:** May '99. On behalf of IMO London, assisting El Salvador in updating the National Contingency Plan and to make an inventory of the existing oil pollution equipment, by the REMPEITC-Carib Spanish speaking instructors.

**MOU-Partner / Steering Committee REMPEITC-Carib Meeting:** Miami, May '99. First MOU-Partner / Steering Committee REMPEITC-Carib for government and industry donors.

**Trinidad and Tobago – IMO / Environmental Sensitivity Index Mapping Workshop:** Port of Spain, May / June '99. The Centre advised in the nomination of regional participants and donor institutions for technical assistance to the workshop.

### **Pollutions Reported:**

#### **Response to Oil Spills:**

Three oil spill incidents occurred during the reviewed period, and required attendance by REMPEITC-Carib; Venezuela (June '98), St. Eustatius (October '98), and Grenada (January '99). Higher number of pollution reports were expected. This under-reporting illustrates the reason for REMPEITC-Carib to propose a Satellite Surveillance pilot project. The project was agreed to by the MonCom of the Cartagena Convention and the Intergovernmental Meeting of the Caribbean Action Plan, June '97. Recognition of the need for redrafting the Satellite project and to seek donor support.

### **Exercise and Training, meetings - seminars and conferences:**

REMPEITC-Carib organized, attended and/or participated in the following:

#### **a. Exercise and Training;**

**Clean Caribbean Co-operative (CCC):** The initiative of the oil industry to support one or two Government representatives to the regular (three times a year) CCC Training Exercise is highly appreciated. Over the reviewed period six government representatives were sponsored.

**IMO Model Training Courses:** the Centre managed to train regional instructors to conduct the IMO Model Training Courses, free of charge for the Centre. Three government instructors and five industry representatives are now available and certified to deliver these courses.

**Level 1 – First Responders:**

With the kind financial support of Coast Guard Canada and the US Coast Guard, Course material was ordered for 9 English and 3 Spanish Level 1 Courses, to be conducted in 1998 and 1999.

In 1998 only 3 of the 5 planned courses could be organized due to adverse weather conditions.

Courses have been conducted in Grenada, September '98; British Virgin Islands (BVI), November '98; Bahamas, November '98; St. Lucia, April '99; and Mexico, May '99. Requests for additional courses were received from, St. Kitts and Nevis, Aruba; Curaçao; St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica (English Course Level 1) and the Dominican Republic for the Spanish Course.

**Level 2 – Supervisors / On-Scene Commanders and Dispersant Course:** The Centre, in co-operation with Clean Caribbean Co-operative (CCC), organized the IMO Model Training Course Level 2 for Supervisors / On-Scene Commanders, Fort Lauderdale-Florida, February '99. Kind financial support by UNEP-CAR/RCU, Jamaica, the USA and Canada. 14 government and 10 industry representatives attended the Model Training Course.

**St. Eustatius:** Statia Terminal conducted their yearly Table-top exercise. The Centre was involved in accordance with the Caribbean Island OPRC Plan. August '98.

**Curaçao:** IMO Flag State and Port State Control Course for inspectors, September '98. Organized under the auspices of IMO and with financial support from the USCG.

**London:** Shell London conducted the Table-top exercise for the Caribbean Region and involved the Centre in accordance with the Caribbean Island OPRC Plan. September '98.

**Dominican Republic:** REMPEITC-Carib participated in organizing the Oil Pollution Response Table-top- and operational exercise of Tradewinds 1999.

**St. Thomas-USVI:** US Carib. Regional Response Team Meeting and Exercise, April '99. REMPEITC-Carib secured possible participation of sub-regional countries in this CRRT meeting.

**b Conferences:**

UN-UNEP High-Level Committee of Ministers and Officials, Buenos Aires, November 1998. REMPEITC-Carib attended this meeting on behalf of IMO-London.

International Oil Spill Conference 1999, Seattle – USA. March 1999. The Centre presented an introduction to the ARPEL Board meeting and discussed the participation in the September 1999 ARPEL Seminar.

**Information and Communication:**

Communication.

IMO provided REMPEITC-Carib with nearly all their official Publications on Marine Environment - Ship Safety - and Conventions. These Publications are part of the REMPEITC-Carib established Library.

Information on all kind of activities in the region and within UN related / associated organizations are contained in a newsletter introduced by REMPEITC-Carib and published periodically.

REMPEITC-Carib updated Homepage on the Web in October 1998. (<http://www.curbiz.com/rempeitc>). Publications:

- Work Plan 1999 - 2001;
- Caribbean Island OPRC Plan - Status of Contingency Planning, November 1998;
- The updated, Caribbean Island OPRC Plan, February 1999; and
- Brochure, REMPEITC-Carib. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

**Financial and administrative matters**

The establishment of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre (REMPEITC-Carib) was achieved by the direct support of the MOU Partners, the Netherlands Antilles in hosting the Centre on Curaçao and by making available suitable office and communication facilities, secretarial assistance and local support services for a period of four years pending the agreement of the

Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention on institutional arrangements and long-term financial sustainability. The United States has continued its support with the secondment of a US Coast Guard Officer and financial travel and administrative support, and the Netherlands (V&W) has seconded an expert to IMO and took the initial expenses for the Centre and contributed financially to the daily operational activities of the Centre (RWS Dnz and DGG). The Centre is operating under the management of IMO, in co-operation with the Regional Co-ordinating Unit (RCU) of UNEP, Kingston.

For assistance to Countries, Island States and Territories, and to execute the Work Plan of REMPEITC-Carib, extra donor support was inevitable.

At the IMO Forum, Santo Domingo – February 1999, the existing MOU-Partners REMPEITC-Carib addressed their willingness to consider further contribution to REMPEITC-Carib under the condition that within two years (June 2001) a financial sustainability must be achieved. Clients to the Centre must demonstrate their commitment to the product by working toward a self-sustaining operation. In the case this commitment is not demonstrated, the current donors to the Centre are to opt out of the project.

#### **Financial Review REMPEITC-Carib June 1998 – May 1999:**

This review will indicate the daily operational costs of the Centre and support for projects by several donors (government, organizations and industry) for the period 1 June 1998 - 1 June 1999.

(Grand total: yearly operation cost REMPEITC-Carib US\$ 411,350.00 and, support and funding for projects US\$ 441,663,14.00)

##### **Donorship:**

With the advice of the Preparatory Committee to the Contracting parties to the Cartagena Convention regarding the formal institution of the Centre (expected to be decided by the IGM/CEP Meeting, November 1999), the general recognition and acceptance of REMPEITC-Carib by States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region and private entities, and the potential elapse of the initial support of the MOU-Partners to REMPEITC-Carib, the Centre has entered into a transitional period.

Noting the increased involvement of Caribbean States and industries with the Centre, it is hoped that States and Territories, international Organizations, Industry, NGO's, and other Private entities will consider continued financial support for REMPEITC-Carib, at least for the period until the IGM/CEP Meeting and the expected formalization and institutionalization of the Centre and specifically for the period after June 2001, when the current MOU-Partners will elapse their initial support to the Centre.

#### **Donor support to REMPEITC-Carib June 1998 – May 1999:**

An increase of donor support to REMPEITC-Carib was observed over the reviewed period. Funding and support was received for general assistance, conferences, training and exercises, by Coast Guard Canada, CARICOM – Maritime Adviser, UNEP-CAR/RCU, IMO, Oil Industry, ITOPE, CCC, OSRL, IPIECA, Caribbean Governments, USCG and the Netherlands

**Country Support:** The USCG and the Netherlands continued their support to the Centre in Training and Exercise projects, IMO Model Training Course, IMO Flag State and Port State Control Courses, the Tradewind 1999 exercise, and contributed to deliver course material. Canada and Coast Guard Canada donated course material for several IMO Model training Courses and financially supported the conduct of a number of IMO Model Training Courses Level I, "First Responders."

As a result of preparatory MonCom Meeting's conclusions and advice to the Contracting Parties, four Island States and Territories have agreed to put at the disposal of REMPEITC-Carib instructors for free assistance to conduct IMO OPRC Courses on Oil Pollution. (a reduction of standard course costs ca. 70%). The instructors (4), supported by the Centre, have been certified by IMO. The Region has benefitted from the successful deployment of the first three IMO Courses Level 1 (First Responders) in Grenada, the British Virgin Islands and the Bahamas during 1998. There are numerous requests from other Island States for this important training.

The IMO Model Training Course Level 2 - for Supervisors/On Scene Commanders was organized in February 1999, thanks to the support by UNEP-CAR/RCU, the USCG and The Clean Caribbean Co-operative (CCC). It's a great step forward in that, although the UNEP-CAR/RCU supported selected governmental representatives from the region (Travel/Hotel costs and DSA), several States participated at their own expense. The proposal of States and Territories to participate direct and in kind in the Centre at Curaçao is under consideration.

**International Organizations' support:**

IMO provided the Centre with a complete set of the IMO Model Training Courses Level 1 – 3 on CD-Rom. IMO also organized and contributed to two regional Conferences and a training Course being organized in the Wider Caribbean Region; the IMO Forum, Santo Domingo, the Sensitivity Index Mapping Workshop in Trinidad and Tobago and the Flag State and Port State Inspector Course in Curaçao.

UNEP-CAR/RCU financially supported the Centre towards the organizing of to the IMO Model Training Course Level 2 “Supervisors / On Scene Commanders” in Fort Lauderdale – Florida”, and assisted REMPEITC-Carib in organizing this event.

The CARICOM Maritime Adviser in Trinidad and Tobago continued the support to the Centre and represented REMPEITC-Carib in several meetings through the Region.

**Industry Support:**

The International Oil Industry reacted enthusiastically to the establishment of REMPEITC-Carib in 1995. From the start, direct and indirect support has been received. For the review period, the regional oil companies (Shell - Texaco – Exxon) continued their support to States and Territories in reviewing and updating their National Contingency Plans and strengthening closer co-operation. Texaco and Exxon supported the Tradewind / USCG / REMPEITC-Carib 1999 Exercise in the Dominican Republic. Statia Terminals offered to organize the next Regional OPRC-CAR Training Exercise. Exxon/IPIECA Texaco offered two collegeships for government representatives to attend the World Maritime University.

Texaco supported the British Virgin Islands in finalising their sensitivity index mapping programme.

The Clean Caribbean Co-operative (CCC) continued their support to countries to attend, free of charge – at industry expense, the three yearly organized oil industry operational training courses in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida USA (in the reviewed period 6 regional government participants have attended). Furthermore the CCC offered support to REMPEITC-Carib to conduct IMO Model Training Courses. Three instructors have been appointed and are certified.

The International Tanker Owners Federation (ITOPF) assisted REMPEITC-Carib in up-dating the regional Caribbean Island OPRC Plan - Chapter 8 “Intervention and Cost Recovery”.

It is expected that the Oil Industry will decide to introduce the World Initiative on OPRC and to support the Centre in conducting the Work Plan for 1999 – 2001. The Oil Industry also indicated possible participation in the Centre .

Several Oil Companies also expressed their intention to become members of the Steering Committee of REMPEITC-Carib after formal institutionalization.